

ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
1740 W. ADAMS ST., SUITE 4600, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
PHONE (602) 364-1PET (1738) FAX (602) 364-1039
VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

received
5/7/2020

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION FORM

If there is an issue with more than one veterinarian please file a separate Complaint Investigation Form for each veterinarian

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: MAY 7, 2020 Case Number: 20-104

A. THIS COMPLAINT IS FILED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING:

Name of Veterinarian/CVT: Hannah Hildebrand DVM
Premise Name: Zimmer Equine Sports Medicine
Premise Address: 1501 Bell Rd
City: Phoenix State: AZ Zip Code: 85023
Telephone: 857-66-0393

B. INFORMATION REGARDING THE INDIVIDUAL FILING COMPLAINT*:

Name: Holly Kimball
Address: [REDACTED]
City: [REDACTED] State: [REDACTED] Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Home Telephone: [REDACTED] Cell Telephone: [REDACTED]

*STATE LAW REQUIRES WE HAVE TO DISCLOSE YOUR NAME UNLESS WE CAN SHOW THAT DISCLOSURE WILL RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL HARM TO YOU, SOMEONE ELSE OR THE PUBLIC PER A.R.S. § 41-1010. IF YOU HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANTIAL HARM WILL RESULT IN DISCLOSURE OF YOUR NAME PLEASE PROVIDE COPIES OF RESTRAINING ORDERS OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION.

C. PATIENT INFORMATION (1):

Name: Lamold Fashion to
Breed/Species: Thoroughbred
Age: 5 Sex: Gelding Color: Bay

PATIENT INFORMATION (2):

Name: _____
Breed/Species: _____
Age: _____ Sex: _____ Color: _____

D. VETERINARIANS WHO HAVE PROVIDED CARE TO THIS PET FOR THIS ISSUE:

Please provide the name, address and phone number for each veterinarian.

Hannah Hildebrand DVM / ZIMMER EQUINE SPORTS
MEDICINE
1501 Bell Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85023

E. WITNESS INFORMATION:

Please provide the name, address and phone number of each witness that has direct knowledge regarding this case.

Amanda Plunkett, DVM / Great Basin Equine

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Attestation of Person Requesting Investigation

By signing this form, I declare that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Further, I authorize the release of any and all medical records or information necessary to complete the investigation of this case.

Signature: _____

Date: 5-7-2020

May 7, 2020

To: Whom it may concern,

I am writing to file a formal complaint against Hannah Hildebrand DVM working with Zimmer Equine Sports Medicine and request that at the very minimum, that I be reimbursed for the services that she provided, \$229. I purchased a Thoroughbred horse, IAMOLDFASIONEDTO (IAM) from Turf Paradise Race Track on February 26th. Prior to myself, another buyer, Coreen Schaafsma was interested in purchasing IAM and she had arranged for a pre-purchase vet exam that was performed by Lauren Christensen DVM of Race Day Veterinary Services on February 22nd. Due to the upper airway surgery (Tie-back surgery), Dr. Christiansen recommended that an upper airway endoscopy be performed. Coreen decided not to buy this horse but made the PPE that she had paid for, available to any other serious buyers. When asked why the first buyers passed on this horse, I was told by both Hannah Hildebrand and the agent (separately) that she decided she wanted a "hot mare not a calm gelding". Since I had been speaking to Hannah Hildebrand about another horse, I told the agent that I wanted to have Hannah perform the endoscopy. I was informed by the agent that Hannah Hildebrand had already performed the endoscopy (for the first buyer) and I was also told that she was the vet of record for IAM. On February 25th, I circled back with Hannah and she confirmed that she had performed the endoscopy on February 22nd. She told me that flap had actually been removed. I asked her for any photos or videos that she had taken during the procedure and she stated that her equipment was old and she was unable to take pics. I asked her what this horse's limitations would be and if he would need any special care and she replied that he had a nasal discharge, just needed to be fed with his head in a low position (fed on the ground) and that he should not be ridden for a couple of hours after a meal. On February 26, I had asked Hannah for a write-up on the endoscopy and she said that it was "company policy to release records once paid in full." I was unaware that she had already been paid for this service by Coreen. I was not sent the invoice for services performed until March 4th, the day before he was to be shipped to me. After paying the bill, I once again asked her for the endoscopy write up and she told me that she would send it with the health certificate which would be delivered with the horse.

When the horse arrived at my home, I observed right away that his nasal discharge was flecked with green feed that he had eaten. Additionally, when he drank water, it would pour out of his nose. He continually coughed up his feed out of his mouth and out of his nose. I was not informed of any of this. I had my vet in Nevada out to my barn and she felt that the horse had been misrepresented to me. Additionally, she took a video of the horse drinking.

I spoke to the person that owned the horse from age -1/2 to age 4 and she said that he had respiratory infections and had been treated with antibiotics three or four times while they owned him. Six weeks after I purchased IAM, he came down with a high fever of 103.7 and was diagnosed by my vet with Aspiration Pneumonia. He was hospitalized at the vet clinic. My vet did various diagnostic testing and in the end, she felt that it would be best to euthanize this horse.

I wrote a letter to Hannah Hildebrand and in her reply, she stated "You knew I worked for the trainer and could not disclose his full medical record due to client-patient confidentiality." She also stated that while she was not his caretaker and did not see him eat or drink", yet I spoke to Coreen (mentioned above), she told me that she and Hannah fully discussed this horse's problems with drinking and eating. I feel that Hannah Hildebrand deliberately mis-informed me and since I paid for the endoscopy, she

was negligent in her responsibility and duty to me. . If I was made aware of the true condition of this horse, I would not have proceeded with purchasing him. You will see that her write up of the endoscopy (attached) was totally insufficient, please see attached.

Additionally, I have attached the following:

- Endoscopy Billing
- Endoscopy Write up
- My letters to Hannah sent via Text
- Hannah's response to my letter via Text
- Iam's Jockey Club Registration
- Health Certificate
- Bill of Lading for Commerical Shipper
- Injury/Illness report completed by my vet, Dr. Plunkett

These are the costs associated with my purchase of this horse:

\$3,000	cost of horse
\$1,150	Commercial shipper
\$ 220	Zimmer Equine Sports Medicine
\$2611.83	Great Basin Equine

I am exploring all of my options at this time. I ask that a full investigation be performed. I would like to be informed as to what actions you intend to take on this matter. I am available to further discuss or to answer any of your questions.

Kind regards,

Holly Kimball


Sent by text on April 22, 2020

Hannah, I am not sure if you have heard that I corresponded with Mary Tate yesterday. If you have not, I am informing you that lamoldfashionedto had to be euthanized last Thursday. As you can imagine, I am sad and upset beyond belief. Last Tuesday, April 14th, he had high fever of 103.7. He was hospitalized at my vet's clinic. They performed diagnostic testing and found that he had aspiration pneumonia due to complications as a result of his upper airway surgeries. As I had mentioned to Mary, I had been in contact with his former owner and was made aware that he had a history of aspiration pneumonia. She also gave me her vet's contact information, which I have shared with my vet. I feel that this horse was misrepresented to me, and perhaps most disturbing, valuable information was withheld by you as well as by Paul Treasure. While I was aware of his failed tie-back surgery and his subsequent surgery to remove the flap, you did not tell me nor did I expect that 100% of the time, when he ate, he would cough causing his food to be spewed out of his nose and mouth. Additionally, when the horse drank water, copious amounts of water would pour out of his nose. When you and I spoke about lamoldfashionedto at the end of February, you merely stated that it would be important for me to feed him on the ground and not to ride him shortly after he ate... that is all you said. It is my understanding that this horse was in your care from the time he was brought to Turf Paradise. From the first day in my possession, he coughed continually, whether he was eating or not as well as water poured out of his nose when he would drink. Even during times he was not eating or drinking. If you asked him to trot or canter, he still would cough. There was no way he could be used for his intended purpose, which was dressage. Mary Tate, who functioned in the role of agent for this sale, was made aware of this as I messaged her on March 5th, the day he arrived. I also included a video taken that same day by my veterinarian of lamoldfashionedto drinking with water pouring out of his nose.

I am formally requesting that you refund me the vet expenses that I incurred in the amount of \$229.00, due to the fact had I been informed the full extent of lamoldfashionedto's condition, I would not have gone through with the purchase.

Bringing a newly purchased horse home should be a joyous and positive experience and truly this has been a heartbreak for me. As I mentioned to Mary Tate, I have been looking into the recourse I can take on this and I am prepared to file a complaint with the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board, as well as the Arizona Department of Gaming. I am sorry that I am having to write this letter, but sadly I feel that I have no choice. If I do not receive a satisfactory reply by noon Friday, April 24th, I will proceed with contacting the above agencies.

Respectfully,

Holly Kimball

Received via text on Thursday, April 23, 2020

Zimmer Equine Sports Medicine

Holly,

I am sorry to hear about the passing of lam. This is the first time I am hearing about any complications with him and I understand you are upset.

I do not believe I deceived you at any point during our interactions. You only asked me to perform an endoscopic exam to evaluate his upper airway. I was transparent with what I found and wrote you up a report with my findings. I have multiple correspondences with you stating I did not do a pre purchase exam on lam and did not give him a full bill of health. You were aware of the complications due to his surgery and proceeded to purchase lam. You knew I worked for the trainer and could not disclose his full medical record due to client-patient confidentiality but knew he was not sick and able to run while I worked for that trainer. I was not lam's personal caretaker and did not see him eat or drink but I did disclose he had consistent nasal drainage due to the procedure done on his throat.

I understand you want compensation for the trouble this situation has caused you but my endoscopic exam findings have clearly expressed the horse's condition prior to your decision to purchase him. Therefore leaving the responsibility in your hands.

With all that being said, it is up to you to decide where you want to go from here but I want to make it clear that there hasn't been any malpractice or falsification of information given to you on my end. Again I am very sorry for your loss.

Hannah Hildebrand, DVM

Sent by text on 4/24/2020

Thank you for your reply and for your condolences. lam was a nice horse and he certainly did not deserve the ending he had. On February 25th, you and I had a call to discuss your findings of his upper airway endoscopy that had been originally ordered by and paid for by Coreen Schaafsma on February 22nd. I asked you specially if there were any concerns that I should know about with regards to the absence of his left arytenoid and aryepiglottic fold. The only thing that you said was that "it would be important for me to feed him on the ground and not to ride him shortly after he ate." You told me that he had consistent nasal drainage but neglected to tell me that it was mixed with his chewed up food nor did you tell me what the potential complications of his upper airway could be. I was relying on your expertise since you performed the endoscopy which I also paid for. While I know that you were not this horse's caretaker, it is my understanding that you were fully aware that water poured out of lam's nose when he drank based on the conversation that I had with Coreen.

Once again, I am sorry that we are having to deal with this but your reply does not satisfy my request and leaves me no choice but to file my complaints with the appropriate agencies. Should my complaint to the Arizona Department of Gaming result in an investigation, I was told that all of his veterinary records will become public record which may prove to provide more information.



Shane Miller, DVM Dipl. ACVS

Brian Peck, DVM

Kelsey Tanner, DVM

Amanda Plunkett, DVM

12 May 2020

To:

Kerry C. Kading
Arizona Department of Gaming/Racing
Sergeant/Chief Investigator
Turf Paradise Office
1501 West Bell Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023

From:

Amanda H. Plunkett, MS, DVM
Great Basin Equine Medicine & Surgery
Associate Veterinarian
320 Hwy 88
Gardnerville, NV 89460

Mr. Kading:

My name is Amanda Plunkett and I am an equine veterinarian in Gardnerville, NV. I am writing regarding Ms. Holly Kimball's horse "Iamoldfashionedto". I was the main attending veterinarian to examine and treat the 5 year-old TB gelding, Iamoldfashionedto, from the dates of 03.05.20 to 04.16.20 while he was under the ownership of Ms. Holly Kimball and residing in Garnerville, NV.

I first examined "Iamoldfashionedto", a 5 year-old TB gelding, whom may be referred to as "patient" hereafter, on 03.05.20 for evaluation of water being rejected from his nostrils upon drinking/swallowing, as well as a persistent cough when eating/drinking. Iamoldfashionedto was delivered to Ms. Holly Kimball's property by a transportation van at approximately 3:00 AM on this date. Upon presentation, the patient was quiet, but alert and responsive. When observed to drink from a water bucket on the ground, water was expelled from both nostrils at the time of swallow. Wet, green feed was observed smeared on the stall walls, where feed had been ejected from his oral cavity/nasal passage when a cough was elicited during ingestion. Concerns regarding the patient's history of a failed "tie-back" upper airway surgery followed by a left-sided arytenoidectomy (dates of surgeries unknown) were discussed with Ms. Kimball. The recommendation of performing an upper airway endoscopy exam in the immediate future to evaluate his current airway status and for any signs of upper airway and/or esophageal dysfunction was made and the tentative plan was made to perform the endoscopy the following day. A significant concern for aspiration of feed from the oral cavity into the upper and lower airways that could lead to aspiration pneumonia was discussed. At the time of and following this initial examination, a full systemic blood-work panel was obtained and the patient was subsequently treated with therapeutic medications such as anti-inflammatory throat spray, systemic flunixin meglumine, and oral sucralfate.

320 HWY 88 Gardnerville, NV 89460 *Office (775)265-7800 *Fax (775)265-7805 *www.greatbasinequine.com

From the dates of 03.05.20 to 04.14.20, lamoldfashionedto was examined by myself on four separate occasions and by another veterinarian at our hospital once (for signs of possible colic). During this time, the patient continued to exhibit the clinical signs of bilateral clear-green nasal drainage (contaminated by feed), persistent coughing during ingestion of feed/water as well as during exercise, and the regurgitation of feed and water from both nostrils during ingestion, despite the very conscious and appropriate husbandry and feeding practices of Ms. Kimball and the as-needed conservative medical management described previously. Throughout these dates, the patient did not exhibit signs of lethargy, dullness, or fever until the patient was re-presented on emergency on 04.14.20 for signs of dullness, lethargy, inappetance, fever, and the previously described clinical signs of nasal drainage, chronic cough and regurgitation. On 04.14 and 04.15.20, the diagnostics of systemic blood-work panel, upper airway endoscopy, thoracic ultrasound and trans-tracheal wash procedure and subsequent diagnostic testing supported the diagnosis of severe aspiration pneumonia and due to the ongoing clinical condition of the patient, chronicity and severity of disease in addition to the patient's upper airway dysfunction, Ms. Kimball elected to humanely euthanize lamoldfashionedto on 04.16.20 due to his poor to grave prognosis for athletic ability and quality of life.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself and/or the Great Basin Equine Medicine & Surgery office with any questions, concerns or need for additional information.

Thank you for your time.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda H. Plunkett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amanda H. Plunkett, MS, DVM
Great Basin Equine Medicine & Surgery
Associate Veterinarian
775-265-7800
dvm.ahp@gmail.com

Registered
Cal-Bred

170855
M. Locke
2/24/2017
1502714

The Jockey Club,

TREASURE
Parentage
Qualified

No. 1502714

CERTIFICATE OF FOAL REGISTRATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT *the* Bay Colt ^{6 3/11/17 per TR}
foaled February 26, 2015 *named* Lamoldfashioned to
out of Lil Devilish *by* Old Fashioned
is duly registered by Roman Dancer
The Jockey Club,

Marks: Star pointed at top and connected irregular thin bordered stripe, narrowing above nostrils, ending between nostrils. ---
Cowlick to right at top of eye level in star; cowlick on cheek on both sides. ---
Left hind: half pastern white, lower on inside, extending on ankle on outside in back; scattered white hairs on ankle on outside in back; dark spots on coronet. ---
Right hind: quarter stocking, lower on outside in front; dark spots on coronet. ---
Cowlick high at crest of neck on both sides; cowlick at throat latch. ***

Issued to 6-2 Kenneth Elison & Vicky Jo Elison
Bred by 6-1-17 Rod Rodriguez & Lorraine Rodriguez
Foaled in California, U. S. A.

J 0535221

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED TO THE JOCKEY CLUB BY THE APPLICANT
PURSUANT TO THE PRINCIPAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICAN STUD BOOK AND IS SUBJECT TO REVOCATION
AND CANCELLATION IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS RECEIVED INDICATING IMPROPER OR ERRONEOUS ISSUANCE.

12/2/15

CERTIFICATE TO BE PRESERVED AND TRANSFERRED TO PURCHASER GRATIS IF THIS HORSE IS SOLD. POSSESSION AND PRESENTATION OF THIS
CERTIFICATE MAY BE A REQUIREMENT TO RACE OR BREED THE HORSE IT IDENTIFIES. TRANSFERS MAY BE RECORDED ON REVERSE SIDE.



1501 Bell Rd
Phoenix, AZ 85023
(979)-204-0944

March 18, 2019

To whom it may concern:

An upper airway endoscopy was performed on 2/22/20 on lamoldfashionedto. His left arytenoid and aryepiglottic fold were not present. A history of surgery was noted per the trainer. Otherwise the right side appeared to function normally. The rest of the endoscopic exam was unremarkable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Hildebrand", followed by the letters "DVM" in a larger, bold font.

Hannah Hildebrand, DVM
Zimmer Equine Sports Medicine

20-104

To Whom It May Concern:

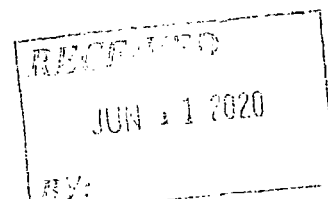
Holly Kimball approached me on February 25th 2020 via text message about performing an upper airway endoscopy on Iamoldfashionedto (Iam). I proceeded to call her and talk to her about her request. I explained to Holly that since I worked on Iam during his time at Turf Paradise it was a conflict of interest for me to perform a full pre-purchase exam but was given permission from the consigner to release the endoscopic results that I had previously done for a prospective buyer, Coreen Schaafsma. During my phone call with Holly I informed her that Iam consistently has nasal drainage due to his left arytenoid and aryepiglottic fold being removed. I also informed her that due to this procedure that he will need to be fed on the ground and not engage in athletic activity for a few hours after eating to prevent aspiration pneumonia. She informed me that she would talk to her regular veterinarian about the procedure and was going to find out from the owner/trainer about his past surgeries, which our practice and myself had no involvement in.

During Iam's time at Turf Paradise I did not treat him for complications, such as aspiration pneumonia, and he ran three times during January and February 2020 (1/07/20, 1/28/20, and 2/12/20). My primary interactions with Iam were for pre-race treatment. Never in my time as the primary veterinarian for this horse's trainer during the 2019-2020 race meet, was I requested to examine this horse for issues relating to consumption of food and water or in any capacity, outside of fitness and soundness to race. I did note his nasal drainage and told Holly about the drainage. Other than the nasal drainage, I was not present during feed time and did not see how Iam ate or drank. This issue would have been more accurately disclosed to Holly or the consigner by the trainer.

The consigner Mary Tate was my contact at the racetrack for Holly since Holly did not see the horse in person. Mary informed me that she sent pictures and videos of Iam to Holly during the pre-purchase that was done by a different veterinarian. Once she decided to purchase Iam, Holly asked for a health certificate and for Iam to receive gastrogard before he traveled. I told her I was able to write a health certificate and was going to give the trainer two tubes of gastrogard for the horses caretaker to give the day before he leaves and one for the van driver the day he leaves. I also offered to give Iam preventative antibiotics for shipping fever and Holly gave me permission to administer a shot of Excede (cefiofur) the day before he left Turf Paradise, which was performed on March 3rd 2020.

I did not maliciously withhold information from Holly and explained to her over the phone about his condition to the extent of my knowledge. I was not aware she had any issues with Iam until April 22, after he had already been euthanized. I am sad to hear he was euthanized.

Thank you for your time,
Hannah Hildebrand, DVM





ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

1740 W. ADAMS STREET, STE. 4600, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007

PHONE (602) 364-1-PET (1738) • FAX (602) 364-1039

VETBOARD.AZ.GOV

INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

FROM: PM Investigative Committee: Adam Almaraz - Chair
Amrit Rai, DVM
Cameron Dow, DVM
Brian Sidaway, DVM

STAFF PRESENT: Tracy A. Riendeau, CVT – Investigations
Marc Harris – Assistant Attorney General

RE: Case: 20-104

Complainant(s): Holly Kimball

Respondent(s): Hannah Hildebrand, DVM (License: 7199)

SUMMARY:

Complaint Received at Board Office: 5/7/20

Committee Discussion: 10/6/20

Board IIR: 11/18/20

APPLICABLE STATUTES AND RULES:

Laws as Amended August 2018

(Lime Green); Rules as Revised

September 2013 (Yellow)

On February 26, 2020, "Iamoldfashionedto," a 5-year-old Thoroughbred gelding was purchased by Complainant. Prior to purchasing the horse, Complainant requested Respondent to perform an upper airway endoscopy due the horse having upper airway surgery in the past.

On February 22, 2020, Respondent performed the endoscopy and reported to Complainant that the horse consistently had nasal drainage due to the left arytenoid and aryepiglottic fold being removed. The horse would need to be fed on the ground and not engage in athletic activity for a few hours after eating to prevent aspiration pneumonia.

Complainant purchased the horse. Once the horse arrived at Complainant's home, she observed water would pour out of the horse's nose when he drank water. Additionally, the horse continually coughed up feed out of his mouth and nose.

On April 16, 2020, the horse was euthanized due to severe aspiration pneumonia.

Complainant was noticed and appeared telephonically.

Respondent was noticed and appeared telephonically.

The Committee reviewed medical records, testimony, and other documentation as described below:

- Complainant(s) narrative: *Holly Kimball*
- Respondent(s) narrative/medical record: *Hannah Hildebrand, DVM*
- Consulting Veterinarian(s) narrative/medical records: *Amanda Plunkett, DVM*

PROPOSED 'FINDINGS of FACT':

1. Complainant was interested in purchasing the horse. The horse had been evaluated by a veterinarian due to another buyer expressing interest in purchasing the horse. The sale fell through based on the interested buyer wanting a more energetic animal. The veterinarian had recommended the horse undergo an upper airway endoscopy due to the horse having upper airway surgery in the past. Complainant requested Respondent to perform the endoscopy since she had been speaking with her about another horse she was interested in purchasing. Respondent advised that she had already performed an endoscopy on the horse on February 22, 2020.

2. Respondent advised Complainant that the horse had the left arytenoid and aryepiglottic fold removed. Complainant asked what the horse's limitations would be and if he would need any special care. Respondent advised that the horse had nasal discharge and would need to be fed with his head in a low position and that he should not be ridden a couple hours after a meal. Complainant requested an endoscopy report from Respondent and was advised that she would supply the report once services were paid for. Once fees were paid, Respondent told Complainant that the report would be sent with the horse's health certificate, which would be received upon delivery of the animal.

3. According to Respondent, she was approached by Complainant via text about performing an upper airway endoscopy on the horse. Respondent explained that since she worked on the horse during his time at the horse track, it was a conflict of interest for her to perform a full pre-purchase exam. However, Respondent was given permission from the consigner to release the endoscopic results that she had previously done for a prospective buyer. Respondent advised Complainant that the horse had consistent nasal drainage due to the left arytenoid and aryepiglottic fold being removed. Due to this procedure, the horse would need to be fed on the ground and not engage in athletic activity for a few hours after eating to prevent aspiration pneumonia. Complainant relayed that she would speak with her regular veterinarian about the procedure and would find out from the owner/trainer about the horse's past surgeries, which Respondent's practice was not involved in.

4. Respondent explained that she did not treat the horse for complications such as aspiration pneumonia. He ran three times at the horse track during January and February 2020 which she provided pre-race treatment to the horse. Respondent never examined the horse for food or water consumption issues. She did notice the nasal drainage but was not present during feed time and did not see the horse drink.

5. Respondent stated that the consigner had sent pictures and videos of the horse since Complainant did not see the horse in person.

6. On February 26, 2020, Complainant purchased the horse. Complainant requested Respondent write a health certificate for the horse and have the horse receive gastrogard before he traveled. Respondent complied; she wrote up a health certificate and gave the trainer two tubes of gastrogard – one to be given the day before he leaves and one for the van driver to give the horse the day he left. Respondent also obtained approval from Complainant to administer the horse an injection of Excede on March 3, 2020, the day before the horse left the horse track.

7. On March 5, 2020, the horse arrived at Complainant's home. Complainant stated that she immediately observed the horse's nasal discharge was flecked with green feed that he had eaten. Additionally, when he drank water, it would pour out of his nose. He continually coughed up his feed out of his mouth and nose. Complainant expressed concerns that she was not advised of this and was advised by her veterinarian, Dr. Plunkett, that the horse had been misrepresented to her. A video of the horse drinking water is available for review.

8. On April 16, 2020, the horse was euthanized due to his grave prognosis due to severe aspiration pneumonia.

9. Respondent stated that she did not maliciously withhold information from Complainant and explained the horse's condition to the extent of her knowledge.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

The Committee discussed that when it comes to pre-purchase exam for equines, it is rare to have an endoscopy performed prior to the purchase. As a result, the Committee had some concerns. The finding of not having a critical structure in the horse's throat – the left side of the arytenoids was removed. Respondent may not have been forthcoming in the implications of this condition and what it would mean for the future use of a dressage horse – no caution was given to Complainant about the significance of this structure's removal.

The Committee commented that the horse successfully raced prior to purchase. Respondent disclosed to Complainant that she could not perform the pre-purchase exam as she represents the owner of the horse. Additionally, Respondent advised that if she felt the horse could not perform for Complainant in contrast to the horse's athletic ability a couple months prior, she would have cautioned Complainant.

Complainant was cautioned about the possibility of aspiration pneumonia as it was a consequence of the removal of the left arytenoid. It seems Respondent was unaware how bad the nasal drainage was, which was quite severe. Anyone seeing the horse drink water and the drainage that occurred, they would know it was abnormal. If Respondent was not made aware of how severe the horse's condition was, she could not pass that information to Complainant.

Respondent performed the endoscopy, reported her findings to Complainant and warned her of the risk of possible aspiration pneumonia. Some Committee members felt that Respondent

was forthcoming.

There was some question on how clear Respondent was with her findings to Complainant. The Committee was not convinced that Respondent maliciously tried to hide the horse's condition.

COMMITTEE'S PROPOSED CONCLUSIONS of LAW:

The Committee concluded that no violations of the *Veterinary Practice Act* occurred.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDED DISPOSITION:

Motion: It was moved and seconded the Board:

Dismiss this issue with no violation.

Vote: The motion was approved with a vote of 5 to 0.

The information contained in this report was obtained from the case file, which includes the complaint, the respondent's response, any consulting veterinarian or witness input, and any other sources used to gather information for the investigation.

TR

Tracy A. Riendeau, CVT
Investigative Division

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR



VICTORIA WHITMORE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ARIZONA STATE VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD

1740 W. ADAMS STREET, SUITE 4600, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
PHONE (602) 364-1-PET FAX (602) 364-1039

CERTIFIED MAIL
9489009000276265240911

December 31, 2020

Hannah Hildebrand, DVM
ADDRESS ON FILE

LETTER OF CONCERN – 20-104 - In Re: Hannah Hildebrand, DVM

Dear Dr. Hildebrand:

At its meeting on December 9, 2020, the Arizona State Veterinary Medical Examining Board considered information presented in the complaint case opened by the Board regarding a complaint filed by Ms. Holly Kimball.

In each case, the Board considers the situation and the professional's response, as well as all relevant information. In this matter, after review and discussion, the Board voted to issue you a Letter of Concern pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-2234(D). This Letter of Concern is regarding the need to ensure that medical records contain all required information (per the Veterinary Practice Act and Administrative Rules) and that medical records are consistently completed.

A Letter of Concern is defined in A.R.S. § 32-2201(12) as "...an advisory letter to notify a veterinarian that, while there is insufficient evidence to support disciplinary action about certain aspects of the case, the Board believes the veterinarian should modify or eliminate certain practices and that continuation of the activities that led to the information being submitted to the Board may result in action against the veterinarian's license."

We hope you will take this advisory letter in the spirit that it is intended to avoid any other potential violations in the future.

Respectfully,
FOR THE BOARD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Whitmore".
Victoria Whitmore
Executive Director

cc: Holly Kimball